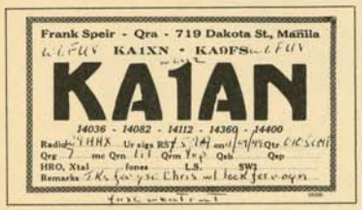

Amateur Radio Club

The Amateur Radio Club, W9HHX, is observing its tenth anniversary this year. The MSOE student organization received its license and call letters from the Federal Communications Commission on May 19, 1949. In July, 1949, it was granted a charter by the American Radio Relay League.

Actually, the club has antecedents going back some 40 years to 1918 when the School itself owned and operated a complete Marconi spark sending and receiving station. In 1922, the School put Milwaukee's first station, WIAO, on the air. This was followed in 1925 by station WSOE (School of Engineering) which in turn became WISN in January, 1928, when *The Wisconsin News*, predecessor of the *Milwaukee Sentinel* assumed control.

W9HHX

Meantime, in 1924, the student members of the School's Radio Club obtained a license for an amateur station, W9SO, operated by William P. Gainer, '32, now an engineer with WISN-TV, Milwaukee. The club recently received a call card from Mr. H. B. Caskey, W8LEX, Cleveland, Ohio, who reported having communicated with station W9SO in December, 1927.

In 1932, the Radio Club assumed call letters W9JUE with Edward J. Stachura, '34, as operator. The station was then located on the third floor of the Broadway Building in the area now occupied by the Department of Drawing. Stachura is a patent advisor, Signal Corp, Dept. of Army, Washington, D. C.

Electrical Engineering freshman James H. Steinhart at the W9HHX transmitter. Radio Club photo.

Today, W9HHX is housed in its own "ham shack" on the lower level of the Milwaukee Street Building. Its modern studio and workshop are among the finest and prove a constant source of interest to MSOE visitors as well as to students, members and non-members.

The cards reproduced on these pages are samples of the hundreds received from ham operators around the world who have communicated with W9HHX. The station holds both "all states" and "all continents" certificates, having contacted other operators in every state and on every continent.

Suggestions for this article were provided by the club's former president, Donald J. Stenz, K9KSA, an Electrical Engineering senior from Waupun, Wis., who is graduating in June. Current club officers are: President - Gerald F. Nihil, K9LFW, a junior in Electrical Engineering from Minneapolis, Minn.; Vice-president - Ronald R. Resch, K9EBO, a sophomore in Electrical Engineering from Grafton, Wis.; Treasurer - Robert B. Benvenuti, W9SID, Electronics Communications Technology sophomore from Highwood, Ill.; and Secretary - Donald T. Priebe, K8OGW, Electronics Technology sophomore from Killbuck, Ohio.